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8 September 1958

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25X1A8a [REDACTED] Proposal for more direct NIS Support

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11/21/80

1. With [REDACTED] telling you he will sit tight until he hears further from you, I will hold his 3 September draft for KAK's attention when he returns.

2. In principle this is a desirable type of thinking, and well worth exploring. It would help to have this additional "community" tie-in for the NIS. Over a long period of time OBI has urged NIS contributors to make more use of the [REDACTED] materials and further to attempt more ad hoc exploitation of [REDACTED] contacts to fill significant industrial-data gaps.

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25X1X7 3. There are, however, some angles to be considered. "Collection"

[REDACTED] activities are so formalized as to require assuring that [REDACTED] proposed operation would fit fully into the framework, of course including the NIS coordinators. Even if the latter agreed on pre-collection consultation, I can imagine the Agency collection people might object to direct-to-analyst delivery of any collected data. I am reminded that various contributors have shied away from much acceptance/use of this "unevaluated" type of source material, particularly in the absence of general corroboration from attache' reports, etc., and might object to special arrangements on the basis that this would tend to put undue emphasis on but one type of collected material. (We are familiar with how State, for example, makes a point of not necessarily accepting even their own agency's field reports.) Recently I ran into some of the gimmicks in trying to get [REDACTED] ad hoc support for some Army Sec 25's; [REDACTED] was willing to cooperate but made the point that careful screening was required to avoid their thinning their corporate welcome mats by asking for information previously made available, and also pointed out that some source doors were not readily open to them; this argues for full advance exploration of how things would work in practice, contributor analysts being only too disposed to make "CIA" responsible for remaining gaps in their source data. Too, we want to be sure that [REDACTED] realizes that their potential for the NIS by no means is tied to the Sections scheduled for a given fiscal year; the routine flow of unprogrammed [REDACTED] items might well include material stimulating Maintenance of a Section or generally giving collection/evaluation impetus to contributors.

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4. It seems to me that the proposed closer tie between the NIS and [REDACTED] effort would be after (a) AD/BI consideration and (for the practical reasons noted) obtaining authoritative assurance of sustained [REDACTED] capability and then (b) reading the NIS Committee into the proposal and making the members responsible for clearing the proposed arrangements with their collection/dissemination people as well as analysts.

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cc: KAK